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Francis C Hand  
Carella Byrne Bain Giffilan Cecchi Stewart & Olste  
5 Becker Farm  
Roseland, NJ 07068

7590

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EXAMINER

STEPHENSON, DANIEL P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3676

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/579,984

**Applicant(s)**

SORENSEN, TORE HASSEL

**Examiner**

DANIEL P. STEPHENSON

**Art Unit**

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 27-29, 31-40, 42 and 44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 27-29, 31-40 and 44 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 May 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application.
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Specification***

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

#### **Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
  - (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
  - (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
  - (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
    - (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
  - (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
    - (1) Field of the Invention.
    - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
  - (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
  - (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
  - (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
  - (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
  - (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
  - (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).
1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the specification should have section headings.

Appropriate correction is required.

It is noted that the applicant stated that he was using the format specified in 37 CFR 1.77.

The examiner points to 37 CFR 1.77 (c), which states, "The text of the specification sections

defined in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(12) of this section, if applicable, should be preceded by a section heading in uppercase and without underlining or bold type." (emphasis provided by examiner)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Haugen et al (US 6,896,075). Haugen et al. discloses (fig. 2A) a pipe section (170) that has an enlarged section. The enlarged section defines a chamber with an annular seat at the bottom of the chamber. There is an annular shoulder (where snap ring 215 is located) below the enlarged section. There is a plurality of venting holes (175, 180) in said enlarged section.

With regards to the limitations that the seat is for receiving a plug thereon, that the annular shoulder is for receiving an annular device thereon after removal of the plug, and that the holes are for venting air from between glass elements of the plug it is noted that these are functional limitations. As long as the pipe section presented is capable of the function disclosed then it meets the limitations of the claim.

4. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Calhoun et al (US 4,354,554). Calhoun et al. discloses (fig. 4C) a pipe section (154) that has an enlarged section. The enlarged section defines a chamber with an annular seat at the bottom of the chamber. There is an annular shoulder (173) below the enlarged section. There is a plurality of venting holes (161) in said enlarged section.

With regards to the limitations that the seat is for receiving a plug thereon, that the annular shoulder is for receiving an annular device thereon after removal of the plug, and that the holes are for venting air from between glass elements of the plug it is noted that these are functional limitations. As long as the pipe section presented is capable of the function disclosed then it meets the limitations of the claim.

5. Claim 42 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kammerer, Jr. (US 3,306,365). Kammerer, Jr. discloses (fig. 2) a pipe section (10) that has an enlarged section. The enlarged section defines a chamber with an annular seat (the taper just below the venting holes 22) at the bottom of the chamber. There is an annular shoulder (44) below the enlarged section. There is a plurality of venting holes (22) in said enlarged section.

With regards to the limitations that the seat is for receiving a plug thereon, that the annular shoulder is for receiving an annular device thereon after removal of the plug, and that the holes are for venting air from between glass elements of the plug it is noted that these are functional limitations. As long as the pipe section presented is capable of the function disclosed then it meets the limitations of the claim.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. Claims 27-29, 31-40 and 44 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL P. STEPHENSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer Gay can be reached on (571) 272-7029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jennifer H Gay/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit  
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